

January 18, 1984

LB 130

the motion to adopt the committee amendments to LB 130. The Clerk will record..

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Motion carried and the committee amendments are adopted. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, LB 130 is a bill that really has about a four-year ancestry in this Legislature. I started four years ago with a measure that was simply designed to enhance the basic licensing features for child care in the State of Nebraska. And when I first began my journey to really improve our licensing laws regarding child care in Nebraska, I first ran into a number of roadblocks with existing child care providers. They were concerned about licensing changes and so on. Well, over the long period of time, why existing child care providers recognized the need to improve, basically improve licensing standards for child care in Nebraska. So I got the child...the existing child care providers are pretty well taken care of, but the next roadblock that I ran into over this four-year sojourn was an issue involving the Lincoln Department of Health. They had regulations on child care and they were very protective of their regulations on child care and after a long period of time why the Lincoln Department of Health realized that we needed to have in this state one primary responsibility for the regulation of child care and that was the Department of Social Services. So that was taken care of. Then over the four-year sojourn I ran into some difficulty with the fact that in terms of looking at child care in the State of Nebraska we really had to take a look at what was happening in preschool programs because preschool programs simply have never been licensed by the State of Nebraska. They simply are just...they sit out there doing their own activities and mostly in a good way, but there has never been any kind of Nebraska oversight of preschool programs for health and safety of children. It has caused some difficulty because since there is no oversight to preschools along the way for health and safety of children, then our State Fire Marshal who is required by law to look at preschools doesn't even know which preschools exist. And after a long period of